

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Operating a Public Charter School in Clark County, Nevada

Updated: September 2019

This document addresses commonly asked questions about public charter school authorization and operation in Clark County, Nevada. The information throughout this document is organized into the following **5 Key Topics**:

1. **About Clark County, Nevada**
 - a. [Clark County, Nevada by the Numbers](#)
 - b. [Measuring Public School Performance in Nevada](#)
2. **Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada**
 - a. [Authorization to Launch a Public Charter School](#)
3. **Students and Talent Recruitment**
 - a. [Student Recruitment and Enrollment](#)
 - b. [Staffing and Talent Pipelines](#)
4. **School Board Governance and School-Level Autonomy**
 - a. [Governing Boards of Public Charter Schools](#)
 - b. [Public Charter School Autonomy](#)
5. **Conditions for Public Charter School Success**
 - a. [Funding a Public Charter School](#)
 - b. [Securing Facilities and Transportation](#)

The information in this document reflects the most accurate and detailed responses available as of September 2019. Some technical details are still evolving. As more details become available, this document will be updated. The next update of this document is planned for the conclusion of the 2021 Nevada State Legislative Session. If you have a question that is not addressed below, please send your inquiry to jana@opportunity180.org.



SECTION 1.1 About Clark County & Nevada

OVERVIEW OF CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

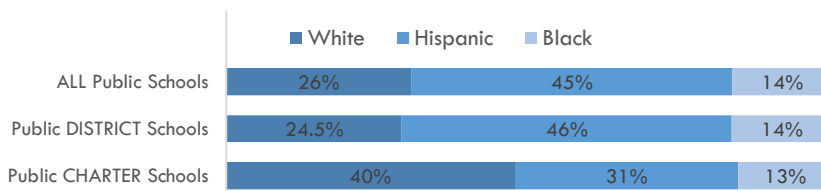
1. How many public school students are in Clark County?

Approximately **485,768** students in Nevada attended a public district or public charter school in 2018-19. [1]

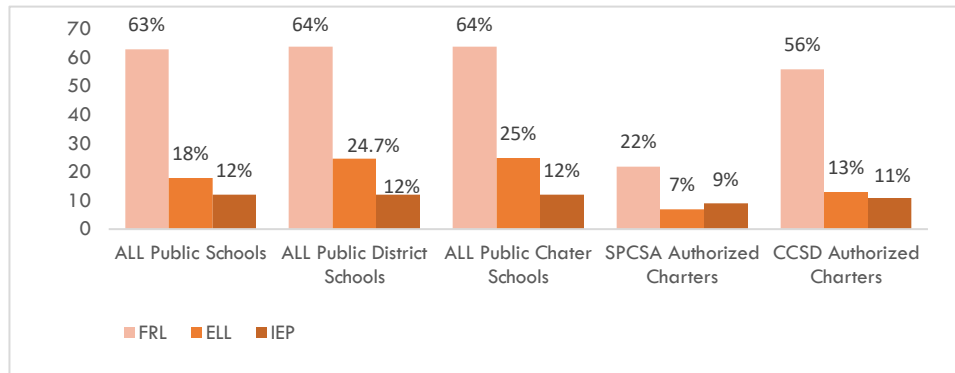
2. What is the breakdown of the number of students in public district schools and in public charter schools?

Location	Total Enrolled (District & Charter)	Public Charter Enrollment	Percent enrolled in public charters
Nevada	485,768	44,546	9%
Carson City	8,085	133	2%
Churchill	3,374	1,716	51%
Clark	324,030	41,100	13%
Elko	9,924	346	3%
Washoe	64,240	893	1%
White Pine	1,955	358	18%

3. Who attends public schools in Clark County?



3. Who attends public schools in Clark County? (continued)



MEASURING PUBLIC SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

1. What tests do Nevada public schools administer?

Test Title	Test Description	Grades
Brigance Early Childhood Screens III [3]	A developmental assessment using observation, interviews, and child performance to measure early development and kindergarten readiness.	Pre-K
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	A nationally-normed computer-adaptive assessment used to monitor student progress in accordance with the Read by Three Initiative. [3]	K-3
The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)	Nationally-normed annual assessment for reading and math. [3]	3-8
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Assessment of several content areas including (but not limited to) reading, math, writing, science, and U.S. history. [3]	4-8
Science Accountability Assessment	A computer-based test administered in the spring that is based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science.	5, 8, 10
End of Course (EOC) Assessment	Required to graduate, EOC tests are administered for Algebra I, Geometry, English 10, and life sciences (biology). EOC exams count as 10% of a student's final grade, and increase 5 percentage points each year until it's 20% of the final grade in 2020-21. [4]	9
ACT	A college-readiness assessment for placement in college-level math and English courses without remediation.	11
Career and Technical Education Assessment	Assessment required for students enrolled in a CTE program.	9-12
WIDA	Annual assessment for students who are Limited English Proficient. [3]	PK-12
Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA)	Determinations for which students are eligible for this assessment are made through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. The NAA assesses IEP students in Mathematics, ELA, and Science.	3-8, 11 (ELA & Math) 5,8,11 (Science)

Students with IEP's may take alternative tests, or receive accommodations for the tests above.

2. How does the state accountability system work?

[The Nevada School Performance Framework \(NSPF\)](#) is an annual summary of school performance developed by Nevada stakeholders to hold schools accountable. The NSPF rates schools with one to five stars, five being the highest-performing.

- Elementary school ratings are based on growth, academic achievement, opportunity gaps, and student engagement.
- Middle school ratings are the same as elementary, plus it accounts for English language proficiency.
- High school ratings are based on academic achievement, graduation rates, English language proficiency, measures of college and career readiness, and student engagement.

[The Alternative Performance Framework \(APF\)](#) is available for schools serving 75 percent or more students that:

- Have been expelled or suspended from a public school
- Have been deemed a habitual disciplinary problem
- Are academically disadvantaged (those who have been retained in the same grade two or more times or have too few credits to graduate on time)
- Have been adjudicated delinquent
- Have been adjudicated in need of supervision (habitually truant from school, undisciplined, or a runaway)
- Have an individualized education program.

Generally, the APF will apply to schools that fall into one of four categories:

- Schools offering credit recovery programs
- Schools offering behavioral/continuation programs
- Juvenile detention facilities serving adjudicated youth
- Special education schools serving students with multiple and severe cognitive disabilities.

In the 2018-19 school year, 17 schools in Clark County were approved to use the Alternate Performance Framework (APF).

3. Do public charter schools sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) immediately receive a Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) rating?

Regardless of grade levels served, new public charter schools will not receive an NSPF rating until after the completion of their first full year. [7]

Slow growth elementary schools, or schools that open a few grades at a time, do not receive a rating until they have 3rd graders. **High schools** do not receive a rating until they have been in operation for 5-years.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that every public district and public charter school be rated under the state's approved accountability system. Some Nevada schools cannot meet the minimum n-size threshold (the minimum number of students needed to provide statistically sound data) to be rated based on a single year of data. These small schools are identified annually and rated by pooling the student records over a number of years until n-size is achieved. [8]

4. What are the graduation requirements and available diploma types?

<p>Standard Diploma Beginning with the class of 2019, students must fulfill the following graduation requirements to earn a Standard Diploma (a minimum of 23 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 credits in English ✓ 3 credits in Math ✓ 2 credits in Science ✓ 2 credits in Physical Education ✓ 1 credit each in U.S. History, U.S. Government and World History or Geography ✓ 0.5 credits each in Health and Use of Computers ✓ 2 College and Career Flex Credit ✓ 6 credits from Electives ✓ Take four end-of-course assessments (two in English and two in math) ✓ Take a college and career readiness assessment (the ACT) 	<p>Advanced Diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet the requirements of a Standard Diploma ✓ Earn an additional Math (4 total) and Science (3 total) credit over the standard diploma ✓ 1 credit in Arts/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (CTE) ✓ Achieve an unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or better
<p>Advanced Honors Diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet the requirements of an Advanced Diploma ✓ Achieve an unweighted GPA of 3.25 or better OR a weighted GPA of 3.85 or better ✓ Complete 12 credits in the Honors, International Baccalaureate, or Advanced Placement courses required of the Honors Course Program 	<p>College and Career Ready Diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet the requirements of an Advanced Diploma ✓ Achieve a GPA of 3.25 or better ✓ Show proficiency in a second language, OR earn two credits in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AP Courses ○ IB Courses ○ Dual-credit or Dual Enrollment Courses ○ Work-based Learning Courses ○ World Language Courses ✓ Receive a college-ready endorsement, which requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum score on the ACT for English, Math and Writing as prescribed by the Nevada State Board of Education. ○ Meet requirements for the issuance of the State Certificate of Skill Attainment OR obtain an industry-recognized credential identified by the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada.

5. How well are Nevada students performing in district & public charter schools?

Overall, Nevada ranked at 47th in education when considering school readiness, student achievement, high school completion, and funding (according to the 2019 Kids Count Data Book). [13]

District Performance	Charter Performance
Elementary Math Proficiency: 43%	Elementary Math Proficiency: 53%
Elementary Reading Proficiency: 50%	Elementary Reading Proficiency: 59%
Elementary Science Proficiency: 23%	Elementary Science Proficiency: 34%
Middle Math Proficiency: 31%	Middle Math Proficiency: 36%
Middle Reading Proficiency: 47%	Middle Reading Proficiency: 54%
Middle Science Proficiency: 38%	Middle Science Proficiency: 44%
High School Graduation Rate: 83.2%	High School Graduation Rate: 62%
High School College & Career Readiness: 21% This is measured by scoring a 22 or greater on the ACT [11]	High School College & Career Readiness: 25% This is measured by scoring a 22 or greater on the ACT [11]



SECTION 2

Operating a Public Charter School in Nevada

AUTHORIZATION TO LAUNCH A PUBLIC CHARTER

1. Who can authorize a new public charter school?

Three (3) entities have the authority to sponsor (or authorize) new public charter schools:

- The State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), a statewide authorizer
- The county local education agency
- Colleges and universities within the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Currently in Nevada, the SPCSA is the only authorizer actively accepting applications for new public charter schools. Here are some quick things to note about the SPCSA:

- SPCSA charters may NOT convert district schools.
- SPCSA charters do NOT have access to district facilities.
- SPCSA charters are all open enrollment (non-selective— open to all students with no academic or behavioral enrollment criteria).
- SPCSA is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the public charters it authorizes.

2. Who can apply to be authorized by the SPCSA?

- A public charter management organization (CMO)
- A committee to form a public charter school, including those intending to contract with an educational management organization

3. Are there any limitations on the number of public charter schools that can be authorized in Nevada?

Nevada does not cap the number of public charter schools operating anywhere in the state. However, the SPCSA is developing a Growth Management Plan in accordance with regulations enacted during the 2019 legislative session. The Growth Management Plan will be released no later than January 1, 2020.

4. What authorizer fees must public charter schools pay? [47]

An authorizer can charge up to 2% of the total amount of money apportioned to the school. [47]

5. What are authorizers looking for in a strong public charter application?

The SPCSA is looking for:

- A strong founding team with the capacity to transparently and accountably govern
- A school leader with an exemplary track record of academic and operating results
- A “promising” or “proven” school model
- A strong school financial model
- Transparent and appropriate relationship(s) with identified service providers

When reviewing an application, the SPCSA must consider how the proposed public charter school will address the needs identified in the [Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#), which is updated annually by the SPCSA. Below are some of the academic and demographic needs highlights. [16]

Demographic Needs: Applicants committed to serving the following student populations that were identified as persistently underperforming:

- Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch
- English Learners
- Student with IEP’s

Academic Need 1: Applicants who plan to launch in zip codes where high concentrations of students attend 1- or 2-star schools. Zip codes of greatest need are outlined in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment.

Academic Need 2: Applicants are committed to serving the following student populations that were identified as at-risk of dropping out of school:

- English Learners
- Students with IEP’s
- Student receiving free/reduced price lunch
- Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander student populations

6. When are new public charter school applications due?

Winter 2020 application cycle deadlines:

- Letters of Intent to submit a new charter application are due between **September 1st and September 15th by 11PM.**
- Charter applications are due between **January 1st and January 15th.**

Summer 2020 application cycle deadlines:

- Letters of Intent to submit a new charter application are due between **March 1st and March 15th.**
- Charter applications are due between **July 1st and July 15th.**

The charter school application process in Nevada includes:

- Pre-application training
- Letter of Intent (LOI) submission
- Application Submission
- Authorizer review & interview of applicant
- Staff recommendation to authority board
- Final approval by the authority board

The SPCSA provides guidance documents for each application cycle that provides in-depth application instructions. [Click here](#) to access the SPCSA guidance documents and other application resources.

7. Are there different applications for special circumstances?

If a school that would like to expand in Nevada is designated as a Proven Provider by the SPCSA, an application to form a charter school may be submitted at any time, according to NRS 388A.168. The SPCSA will consider its capacity and ability to form a review panel and give priority to Proven Provider school applicants.

To be designated as a Proven Provider, a request must be submitted via a [form](#) indicating:

- Academic success at a currently open school including proficiency, growth, and graduation data
- Demonstration of effective governance, financial management, and staffing
- Compliance with state and federal laws
- Intent to submit a charter school application

8. Can public charter operators open multiple grades at once (i.e. K-1 for a new elementary school)?

Yes.

9. Can public charter operators run multiple schools under one application?

Yes.

10. Can public charter operators defer launching a school after authorization?

Yes.

11. What criteria must a public charter operator meet to open additional schools?

An SPCSA-sponsored charter operator may request an amendment of its public charter to expand after the first year of operation of its first school. The SPCSA will consider the existing school's academic, governance, and fiscal health in the decision-making process.



SECTION 3 Recruiting Students and Talent

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

1. What student enrollment preferences are permitted? ^[44]

SPCSA charters may give preference to the following students in a blind lottery, which takes place if a school receives more enrollment applications than seats available. Enrollment preference can be granted to:

- Siblings of current students
- Students who were enrolled in the school's pre-K program
- Children of employees, members of the committee to form the school, or members of the governing board
- At-risk students, if the school targets this population
- Students who reside close to a school if it is located in an at-risk area
- Students connected to the military if the school is located on a military installation
- Students attending overcrowded schools within two miles of the school
- Students attending schools that received one of the two lowest ratings possible under the state's school performance framework (1- or 2-stars), if their district school is also located within two miles of the public charter school

2. What are schools spending on student recruitment?

Marketing costs for student recruitment and community outreach varies based on institution and amount of time the school has been operating. For the 2019-2020 school year, schools typically allocate between \$3,000 and \$20,000 for student recruitment and outreach.

3. What resources are available to help families choose a school?

Nevada applies its performance framework to rate schools on a scale of one to five stars. Families can use Opportunity 180's data portal, GreatSchoolsAllKids.org, to access the performance data of public charter and district schools across Nevada. The portal also has a compare feature allowing stakeholders to get side-by-side comparisons of up to three public schools. ^[27]



SECTION 3

Recruiting Students and Talent

STAFFING AND TALENT PIPELINES

1. Are public charter schools bound by school district collective bargaining agreements?

No. However, public charter school employees who are on a leave of absence from a school district (available for up to three years for public charter schools) are covered by the collective bargaining agreement if the school's charter is terminated or revoked.

2. Must charter teachers meet any certification requirements?

Yes, at least 70 percent of teachers providing instruction at a public charter school must demonstrate experience and qualifications through licensure or subject matter expertise. [17]

3. Does Nevada offer teacher certification reciprocity?

Yes. Visit the [Nevada Department of Education's teacher licensure website](#) for more information. [18]

4. Does Clark County have any alternative certification programs?

CCSD and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) offer alternative teacher certification programs. [19] [Teach For America \(TFA\)](#) [21] and [The New Teacher Project \(TNTP\)](#) [20] also provide alternate routes to licensure.

Public Charter schools may also apply to Nevada's Commission on Professional Standards to manage their own alternative certification programs once they have met the performance requirement of receiving 3, 4, or 5-stars on the Nevada Performance Framework (or equivalent in another state) for two consecutive school years (NRS388A.517, Section 7). [22]

5. Do charter administrators have to meet any certification requirements? [23]

Nevada charter law requires that public charter school administrators possess:

- A valid state teacher's license with an administration endorsement;
- A master's degree in school administration, public administration, or business administration;
OR have at least 5 years of experience in school administration, public administration, or business administration and a baccalaureate degree

6. What talent pipelines exist in Nevada?

Some existing teacher pipelines include:

- [Teach for America Las Vegas](#) and [TNTP's Nevada Teaching Corp](#) both recruit, train, and help to place new teachers to teach in Clark County schools.
- [The Teach Nevada Scholarship](#) funds students pursuing teaching degrees or alternative licensure at state colleges or universities. As of 2019, Teach Nevada Scholarship recipients must pursue an endorsement in teaching English as a Second Language.
- [The Rebel Teach Program](#) is a program offered at UNLV through the College of Education aimed at graduating qualified teachers to fill teacher vacancies.
- [Nevada State College](#) offers a Teacher Preparation Program, which is standards-based and uses the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). [24]
- [Western Governors University](#) offers an online path to licensure that is accepted throughout the United States. [25]

Administrator pipelines include:

- [The Public Education Foundation](#) offers an Executive Leadership Academy designed to provide an intensive education executive leadership experience that draws from the education, business, and public policy fields, and incorporates classroom, applied learning, and mentoring components.
- [University of Nevada, Las Vegas \(UNLV\)](#) offers an educational leadership doctorate program to focus on visionary thinking and innovative solutions to current and future leadership positions. UNLV also offers a The Educational Policy & Leadership Master's Program that meets the requirements for Nevada School Administrator Endorsement and the Nevada Program Administrator Endorsement.
- [University of Nevada, Reno's College of Education](#), in partnership with Washoe County School District (WCSD), launched Nevada Leads, an M.Ed. program that connects experienced WCSD principals (mentors) with teachers aspiring to become school leaders.



SECTION 3 Recruiting Students and Talent

STAFF COMPENSATION

1. How are teachers & administrators compensated in Clark County schools? ^[36] ^[41]

Public charters have the autonomy to determine staff pay scale. CCSD does have a salary table for both teachers and administrators, which can be accessed [here](#).

2. How much do public charters generally pay in employee benefits as a percentage of salary?

Benefits generally include four main categories: retirement (Public Employees' Retirement System or PERS), worker's compensation, unemployment insurance, and Medicare.

PERS is required for licensed school staff (see NRS 388a.318, NRS 388a.533 and NAC 388a.585). There are two types of contribution plans, which can be viewed [here](#). As participants in PERS, contributions are 29.25% shared equally between employer and employee.

The other benefits as of June 2019:

- Worker's Compensation (0.85%)
- Unemployment Insurance (0.05%)
- Medicare (1.45%). ^[34]

3. Are public charters subject to any requirements regarding staff salaries?

Public charters have the autonomy to determine their teacher and staff salaries, but are required to contribute to the [Public Employees' Retirement System](#) (PERS) for full-time employees.

4. Are there city or state taxes that an employer must pay on behalf of employees?

No. Since Nevada has no state or local income tax, employers do not pay city or state taxes on behalf of employees.



SECTION 4 School Board Governance & School Autonomy

GOVERNING BOARDS OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

1. Are operators required to have a local board?

An operator is required to include members of the local community on its board.

SPCSA authorized charter school governing boards must include:

- Two current or retired educators licensed by Nevada; or one current or retired educator licensed by Nevada and a current or retired administrator with a valid license
- A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school who is not a teacher or administrator at the school
- Two members with experience in accounting, financial services, law, or human services

The board may also include an unlimited number of parents and representatives of nonprofit organizations and businesses, except that no more than two may represent the same organization or business. In addition, a majority of members must live in Nevada, and they may not be convicted felons.

2. May operators receive a waiver from the board requirements described above?

The SPCSA can grant waivers of these membership requirements for a compelling reason. If approved, the waiver may provide for multiple governing bodies with decision-making authority over governance issues, but the majority of members of each body must reside in Nevada.

3. Can a single governing body oversee multiple public charter schools?

Yes. Governing boards can oversee more than one school under a single charter contract.

4. Can public charter school governing boards hold multiple charter contracts?

Yes, SPCSA-authorized public charter school boards may hold multiple public charter contracts.

5. Do any local organizations recruit and train school board members?

Opportunity180 is creating a pipeline of potential board members. Although Opportunity 180 does not provide training, the organization can be used as a resource to identify potential board members and training resources.



SECTION 4 School Board Governance & School Autonomy

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTONOMY

1. Are public charter schools free from all district policies and regulations?

Yes, except for policies regulated by state or federal law.

2. Can public charter schools implement any curricular program?

Yes, as long as it aligns with state standards.

Can school leaders hire and release staff as needed?

Yes. The school leaders of SPCSA charter schools make all employment-related decisions subject to certain certification requirements.

Can school leaders set staff compensation?

Yes, the governing body or the principal of a public charter school can make all employment-related decisions.

Can the public charter school have its own independent board of directors and nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation?

Yes.

Do public charter schools have the freedom to enact a longer school day, school week, and school year?

Yes.

Are public charter schools required to use any particular district vendors (ex: maintenance, food service, transportation)?

No.



SECTION 5 Conditions for Public School Success

FUNDING A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN NEVADA

1. How much per-pupil funding do public charter schools typically receive?

Each Biennium, The Nevada legislature establishes a per-pupil Basic Support Guarantee (BSG) for each school district. The Basic Support Guarantee establishes a floor for the amount of funds each district will receive per pupil. The BSG is adjusted for each school district (or county) based on the county's local revenue. Public charter schools receive the Estimated Basic Support Guarantee of the county in which the school resides.

	State-Established Basic Support Guarantee	+	Estimated Local Revenues	=	Estimated Basic Support Guarantee
Districts with Charter Schools	Basic Support Guarantee		Estimated Local Revenue Adjustment		Total Estimated BSG (with local revenue adjustment)
Carson City	\$6,315		\$970		\$7,285
Churchill	\$5,988		\$1,180		\$7,168
Clark	\$4,989		\$1,149		\$6,138
Elko	\$6,947		\$1,068		\$8,015
Washoe	\$4,788		\$1,296		\$6,084
White Pine	\$6,978		\$1,911		\$8,889

2. How is special education funded?

In 2016–17, Nevada began using a weighted student formula to fund special education students. The funding formula initially includes a 0.51 student add-on for each special

education student (on top of the 1.0). The add-on will be for all students with disabilities and will not differentiate for levels of need.

In 2021, Nevada’s new **Student-Centered Funding Formula** will be implemented, which funds students based on weights. The weights for Special Education will be identified by a special commission and approved by the governor prior to the 2021 school year. Public charters will not have access to special education funding until quarter two of their first year of opening, since funding is based on previous quarter cost.

3. Does the state provide weighted funding for any other student groups?

During the 2019 Legislative Session the funding formula was changed to provide additional funding for ELL students, at-risk students, special education students, and gifted and talented students using a weighted student formula. The weights will not be implemented until the 2021 school year. The Legislature has allocated additional categorical funds for programs serving these students through the 2019-2021 biennium, as they did during the previous biennium. *Public Charters are eligible to apply for additional funding via the following programs:*

Resource/Program Overview	Requirements
<p>ZOOM SCHOOL FUNDING Provides funding for schools with high concentrations of English Language Learners (ELLs).</p> <p>SB 467 is the bill that mirrors the provisions of SB 390 (2017) and extends the Zoom schools program for the 2019-2021 biennium.</p> <p>In the 2018 Annual Report for SB 390 it stated that CCSD Zoom School Funding was allocated \$38,741,220. [32]</p>	<p>Elementary schools are required to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free pre-K 2. Full-day kindergarten 3. Reading skill centers 4. (For year-round schools) summer or intersession academies and transportation 5. Professional development for teachers regarding effective ELL instructional practices 6. Recruitment and retention incentives for ELL teachers and licensed instructors; and 7. Increased effective and culturally appropriate engagement with ELL parents and families <p>Middle and high schools are required to provide one or more of numbers 5 through 7 above, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced class sizes for ELLs 2. Data-driven direct instructional interventions for ELLs 3. Extended school day 4. Other evidence-based programs and services approved by the state education department that are designed to meet the specific needs of ELLs

<p>VICTORY SCHOOL FUNDING Provides funding for eligible underperforming schools serving students in households with incomes below the federally designated poverty level to improve their performance.</p>	<p>Schools must submit comprehensive plans for meeting the educational needs of low-income students.</p>
<p>READ BY GRADE THREE FUNDING Maintains the current \$10 million over the biennium and appropriated an additional \$4.3 million to expand services for students identified as gifted and talented.</p>	<p>Students must be identified as gifted and talented via a state-approved assessment or process. The state used this pilot program to determine a 0.5 weight for these students within the funding formula.</p>

<p>GIFTED & TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) Provided approximately \$20.5 million in 2018–19 to support implementation of plans to improve K–3 literacy. [33]</p> <p>Bill AB 289 makes provisions to the retention of students enrolled in grade 3.</p>	<p>School must submit plans providing for the early identification and intervention of students with reading deficiencies and the designation of a licensed teacher to serve as a learning strategist to train and assist teachers in providing intensive instruction to these students.</p>
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4. What additional public sources of revenue are there for public charters?

The Nevada Department of Education administers grants throughout the year that Local Education Agencies and individual schools can apply for. Grants are available for:

- School Safety Funds
- Financial Literacy Funds
- Computer Science Education Funds
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Program: The Department of Education anticipates allocations for eligible entities for the purpose of implementing preschool services to 4-year old children at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- The [Charter School Program \(CSP\) grant](#) is currently available through the Nevada Department of Education.

5. What private funding is available?

Opportunity180 has planning and Year 0 grants available for approved schools. [38] [Click here](#) to access Opportunity180's grant portal.

6. Is there state funding for full-day kindergarten?

Yes. All schools offer kindergarten, but kindergarten is not compulsory.

7. Is there state funding for pre-K?

Yes, Nevada offers grants for Pre-K programs.

8. What is the payment schedule?

SPCSA charters receive quarterly payments with one exception, which is in its first year of operation a public charter school may request any quarterly payment 30 days earlier.

SPCSA charters receive payments directly from the district and the State Public Charter School Authority. Public charter schools receive local tax funds directly from CCSD, and the State and Federal funds from SPCSA.



SECTION 5 Conditions for Public School Success

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

1. Do public charters have access to district facilities?

No. SPCSA public charter schools do NOT have access to district facilities.

2. Are SPCSA charters responsible for securing their own facilities?

All public charter schools are responsible for securing their own facilities.

3. How much do public charters generally spend on facilities?

Since public charters do not receive facilities funding, most public charters use operational funds for facility costs. The percentage of operational funds used for facilities costs is 12 percent for site-based public charter schools and 2 percent for virtual public charter schools. [39]

Building Hope offers facility financing programs. Click [here](#) for more information. A facility loan fund is also being developed by Opportunity 180. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

4. Are public charter schools subject to prevailing wage?

In 2019, the legislature passed a bill that subjects public charter schools to prevailing wage requirements. The minimum threshold for the applicability of prevailing wage is \$100,000. [40]

5. Does the state guarantee capital to secure low bond rates for operators?

Not at this time, however, since financing and securing affordable facilities has been a challenge, the Nevada Legislature enacted the Charter School Financing Law (NRS 386.612-649), which authorizes The Department of Business and Industry to be a conduit issuer of tax-exempt bonds for public charter schools in the state of Nevada.

6. How much do schools typically spend on transportation?

Transportation costs vary considerably based on bus utilization, distance traveled, and the number of special-needs student riders.

7. Can public charters contract with the district to provide transportation?

Yes, however they are not required to.

REFERENCES & SOURCES

- [1]<http://www.greatschoolsallkids.org/myReport.php?STEP=3&GROUP=11®=135&LVL=4>
- [2] <https://greatschoolsallkids.org/reports.php>
- [3] <http://www.doe.nv.gov/Assessments/>
- [4]http://www.doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/High_School_Graduation/NVHSGradReq.pdf
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